

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An access control apparatus for restricting access  
from at least one terminal on a network to a Website on the Internet,  
5 comprising:

source data obtaining means for obtaining source data  
necessary for displaying a Web page by accessing a Website  
corresponding to a URI when the URI is received from the terminal;

access restriction determination means for determining  
10 whether or not access to a Website corresponding to a link  
destination URI linked to the source data obtained by the source  
data obtaining means is restricted;

restriction source data obtaining/storing means for  
obtaining source data necessary for displaying a Web page from  
15 an access-restricted Website, and storing the obtained source data  
as restriction source data if determination is made by the access  
restriction determination means that access to the Website  
corresponding to the link destination URI is restricted;

image data obtaining means for obtaining image data  
20 designated in the restriction source data obtained by the  
restriction source data obtaining/storing means;

unoffending image generating means for generating  
unoffending image data by converting the image data obtained by  
the image data obtaining means;

25 rewritten source data generating/transmitting means

for generating rewritten source data by rewriting the source data of the Website, for which determination is made by the access restriction determination means that access thereto is restricted, so as to obtain the restriction source data, and transmitting the 5 rewritten source data to the terminal; and

unoffending image transmitting means for transmitting the restriction source data and the unoffending image data to the terminal if a link to the restriction source data is requested by the terminal.

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2. The access control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the rewritten source data generating/transmitting means generates rewritten source data describing access restriction to the Website for which determination is made by the access 15 restriction determination means that access thereto is restricted.

3. The access control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the rewritten source data generating/transmitting means generates rewritten source data describing a link destination URI 20 corresponding to the Website for which determination is made by the access restriction determination means that access thereto is restricted.

4. The access control apparatus according to claim 1, 25 further comprising prohibition determination means for

determining whether or not access to the Website corresponding to the link destination URI is prohibited if determination is made by the access restriction determination means that access thereto is restricted, wherein

5           when determination is made by the prohibition determination means that access to the Website corresponding to the link destination URI is prohibited, the rewritten source data generating/transmitting means generates rewritten source data by rewriting a description of the source data to disable a link to  
10          the Website.

5. The access control apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the rewritten source data generating/transmitting means generates rewritten source data describing prohibition of access  
15          to the Website for which determination is made by the prohibition determination means that access thereto is prohibited.

6. The access control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the URI of the restricted Website is registered in a database,  
20          the apparatus further comprising:

              notification instruction describing means for describing an instruction, in the restriction source data, for causing the terminal to transmit an agreement determination notification indicating to what degree a user is able to agree  
25          with the determination that access is restricted;

agreement result registration means for registering a content of the agreement determination notification, which is received from the terminal, as being associated with the URI of the restricted Website; and

5           URI deleting means for deleting, from the database, a URI whose registration content registered by the agreement result registration means meets a predetermined condition.

7. The access control apparatus according to claim 6,  
10 wherein the predetermined condition is that agreement determination is performed more than a predetermined number of times, and a number of points added by users disagreeing with the determination is greater than a number of points added by users agreeing with the determination.

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8. The access control apparatus according to claim 7,  
wherein the predetermine number of times is set for each URI.

9. The access control apparatus according to claim 7,  
20 wherein initial values are previously set as the number of points added by users disagreeing with the determination and/or the number of points added by users agreeing with the determination.

10. The access control apparatus according to claim  
25 7, wherein the agreement result registration means assigns a weight

to each user to change a number of points of agreement determination depending on the user.

11. The access control apparatus according to claim  
5 1, wherein the URI of the restricted Website is registered in a database, the apparatus further comprising:

notification instruction describing means for describing an instruction, in the restriction source data, for causing the terminal to transmit an agreement determination  
10 notification indicating to what degree the user is able to agree with the determination that access is restricted;

agreement result registration means for registering a content of the agreement determination notification, which is received from the terminal, as being associated with the URI of  
15 the restricted Website; and

inappropriateness permanently-registration means for permanently registering a URI whose registration content registered by the agreement result registration means meets a predetermine condition in the database as a URI indicating an  
20 inappropriate Website.

12. The access control apparatus according to claim  
11, wherein the predetermined condition is that agreement determination is performed more than a predetermined number of  
25 times, and a number of points added by users agreeing with the

determination is greater than a number of points added by users disagreeing with the determination.

13. The access control apparatus according to claim  
5 12, wherein the predetermined number is set for each URI.

14. The access control apparatus according to claim  
12, wherein initial values are previously set as the number of  
points added by users disagreeing with the determination and/or  
10 the number of points added by users agreeing with the determination.

15. The access control apparatus according to claim  
12, wherein the agreement result registration means assigns a  
weight to each user to change a number of points of agreement  
15 determination depending on the user.

16. The access control apparatus according to claim  
1, further comprising:

disagreement notification instruction describing means  
20 for describing an instruction, in the restriction source data,  
for causing the terminal to transmit a disagreement notification  
indicating that the user disagrees with the determination that  
access is restricted; and

restriction cancel source data transmitting means for  
25 obtaining source data and image data necessary for displaying a

Web page from the access-restricted Website, when the disagreement notification transmitted from the terminal is received, and transmitting the obtained data to the terminal.

5           17. The access control apparatus according to claim  
1, further comprising:

notification URI regulation determination means for determining whether or not the Website corresponding to the URI received from the terminal is a tentative inappropriate Website;

10 and

tentative inappropriateness notification source data generating/transmitting means for generating tentative inappropriateness notification source data describing a link to the restriction source data if determination is made by the  
15 notification URI regulation determination means that the Website corresponding to the URI is a tentative inappropriate Website, and transmitting the generated data to the terminal.

18. The access control apparatus according to claim  
20 17, wherein the tentative inappropriateness notification source data generating/transmitting means generates tentative inappropriateness notification source data describing access restriction to the Website determined as a tentative inappropriate Website by the notification URI regulation determination means.

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19. The access control apparatus according to claim  
17, wherein the tentative inappropriateness notification source  
data generating/transmitting means generates tentative  
inappropriateness notification source data describing a link  
5 destination URI corresponding to the Website determined as a  
tentative inappropriate Website by the notification URI regulation  
determination means.

20. The access control apparatus according to claim  
10 1, further comprising:

notification URI prohibition determination means for  
determining whether or not a Website corresponding to the URI  
received from the terminal is an inappropriate Website to which  
access prohibition is applied; and

15           inappropriateness      notification      source      data  
generating/transmitting means for generating inappropriateness  
notification source data describing access prohibition to the  
Website corresponding to the URI if determination is made by the  
notification URI prohibition determination means that the Website  
20           corresponding to the URI is an inappropriate Website, and  
transmitting the generated data to the terminal.

21. The access control apparatus according to claim  
1, wherein the unoffending image generating means generates  
25 unoffending image data by converting the image data so that at

least a portion thereof is hidden from view.

22. The access control apparatus according to claim  
1, wherein the unoffending image generating means generates  
5 unoffending image data by changing a color of an image on the Web  
page.

23. The access control apparatus according to claim  
1, wherein the unoffending image generating means generates  
10 unoffending image data by changing a size of an image on the Web  
page.

24. The access control apparatus according to claim  
1, wherein the unoffending image generating means generates  
15 unoffending image data by changing an aspect ratio of an image  
on the Web page.

25. The access control apparatus according to claim  
1, wherein the unoffending image generating means generates  
20 unoffending image data by dividing an image on the Web page into  
a plurality of parts, and arranging the divided parts at random.

26. The access control apparatus according to claim  
1, wherein the unoffending image generating means generates  
25 unoffending image data by converting an image on the Web page as

if it was attached to a curved surface.

27. The access control apparatus according to claim  
1, wherein the unoffending image generating means generates an  
5 unoffending image by attaching a filter image having a blacked-out  
portion to an image on the Web page.